



The

GARzette

The Official Newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
February 2017 <http://www.gars.org/> Volume 26, Issue 2



Congratulations to the 2017 TechFest Raffle Prize Winner!



Noah Dotson, KM4ZSS

Message from the President

First, let me thank all of you that helped make TechFest 2017 a success. This is one of GARS' premiere events and gets the year kicked off with a big bang. Thanks to Ralph, KJ4CNC for making it all come together and all the others who helped. We are currently looking for a volunteer to organize TechFest 2018. Ralph wears many hats in our organization and would like to pass on this opportunity to another deserving member. If you have interest in this project, please contact Ralph for coordination and assistance.



"I will be stepping down from three years as president and I wanted to thank all of you for your support over this period."

I want to thank all of you that participated at Winter Field Day 2017 in the EAA hanger this year. We had a great turnout with lots of stations, generator power for the first time, great food and camaraderie. We had a very impressive field of antennas strung out that worked quite nicely.

Also, special thanks for all that participated in the bi-annual dog show/fund raiser event for GARS and Gwinnett ARES. It was a bit cold a couple of the days but turnout was good and the job got done. The proceeds will help GARS with our future projects such as repeater sites, antenna work and the like. This event provides primary funding for the Gwinnett ARES group and will help with trailer maintenance and other projects.

Final nominations and voting will be held during this February GARS meeting. Please make sure you attend and make your vote count. I will be stepping down from three

years as president and I wanted to thank all of you for your support over this period. It has been a great ride and I have enjoyed serving and have grown personally from the experience. Don't worry, I'm not going anywhere as I have been nominated to run for Vice President and will happily continue serving the club with your approval and vote!

With my "spare time" I'm hoping to knock out an article or two for the GARzette and possibly do another pro-

gram on audio. If you feel like you have some information you would like to present to the club in the future, please contact our program manager (You have to come to the meeting to see who that will be!) to arrange a date. There is no better way to lose you stage freight than to get up and do a presentation to your friends! If print is more your thing then contact the newsletter editor Bill Eggers, WB2RIS to get your thoughts in the GARzette.

Thanks again for all your support and 73,

Rick Cobb, N4XYX

"It is not the class of license the Amateur holds, but the class of the Amateur that holds the license."

[Author Unknown]



GARS February Meeting

Electric Magnetic Pulse (EMP)

by Greg Abernathy, AI4UD

Tuesday, February 14, 2017
7:00 pm

*GARS Officer Nominations are open at the February meeting,
followed by Elections*

Sports Aviation Complex—Hangar 1
690 Airport Road
Lawrenceville, GA 30045
Directions

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GARS Communications

2 Meter Repeater
147.075(+) MHz
82.5 PL Tone

APRS
144.390 -- 1200 Baud
W4GR

D-Star
WD4STR
145.060 + (1.4 MHz)
440.550 + (5 MHz)

2 Meter Repeater
147.255(+) MHz
107.2 PL Tone

6 Meter Repeater
53.110 (-1 MHz)
No PL tone

70 Cm Repeaters
444.525(+) MHz
82.5 PL Tone
442.100(+)
100 PL Tone

**Don't forget
to support our
advertisers at the
back of the
GARzette.**

The *GARzette* is the official monthly newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society, serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the Amateur Radio art.

Original articles, art, and photos are invited and encouraged. Previously copyrighted submissions cannot be accepted for reprinting unless permission from the appropriate publisher is provided in writing along with the information being submitted. If reprints are from publications allowing their unrestricted use, please include a copy of the printed permission contained in the publication.

If possible, bring your articles to the monthly meeting in Microsoft Word or rich text (.rtf) or text or HTML format or by e-mail to editor@gars.org. Artwork can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted via e-mail to the same address. Alternate means of submittal can be arranged when necessary.

In keeping with the Amateur Radio spirit, permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of The *GARzette* articles by other Amateur Radio club newsletters provided that proper credit is given to the individual author and *The GARzette*.

The *GARzette* is published each month with the assistance of Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV who prints copies for distribution at meetings, etc. and Dave Bruse, W4DTR, who distributes the news letter electronically.

Deadline for submissions is the 28th of each month for inclusion in the following month's issue.

For additional information view our Website at: <http://www.gars.org>

Newsletter Editor: editor@gars.org
Bill Eggers—WB2RIS 470-238-9603



Member QRZ Pages

For a few months we will be featuring the QRZ page of various members of GARS.

This month we are featuring the QRZ page of :

AB4NX - Laurence Whited

When you click on the link below you will find this picture (with his wife Karen Whited AB4NW).

<http://qrz.com/lookup/AB4NX>

Read the notes and get to know him better.
You'll be glad you did.

Here is an excerpt from the page:

Occupation: Registered Nurse-retired. Hobbies: Sailing especially small boat cruising, paddling, website storytelling. Website: <http://shallowsailing.com> Retirement plans: do the "big circle" waterway around eastern USA, the Bahamas, the Sea of Cortez, and the Inside Passage from Puget Sound to Alaska. Live long enough to do it! Document my travels on my website and through magazine articles. Membership: ARRL, TAPR, Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society, Gwinnett Amateur Radio Emergency Services, Amateur Radio League, Waterway Radio Cruising Club, West Coast Trailer Sailing Squadron (Florida). Special interests in Ham radio: Digital modes, packet, PSK31, HF APRS, WSPR, JT65. Karen and I are ARRL and W5YI VE's. Check out my blog [The log of Shallow Minded](#)

Watch for another featured GARS member QRZ page in next month's GARzette!



News, Press Releases, & General Interest

GARS Members:

We will be offering for sale at our next GARS meeting, a 30 oz. Stainless Steel Tumbler, with the GARS logo and your name and callsign, for \$20.00 (see attached).

The tumblers can keep ice for up to 24 hours, and hot liquids hot, for up to 6 hours.

This will be a one time sale - so if you're interested, see me at the GARS meeting. Orders must be prepaid. Please have cash, or a check made out to GARS, ready when you place your order. I'll have a sample there for you to look at.

73, *Ralph Pickwick* KJ4CNC



GARS Happenings

GARzette Cover Photo: TechFest Raffle
Grand Prize Winner Noah Dotson,
KM4ZSS, wins a FT-991 transceiver.
Noah just got his Technician license in
early December 2016.



We had a good exam session at TechFest. 5 out of 8 applicants passed.

Ham exam session results: 1 new Technician, 3 upgraded to General, 1 upgraded to Extra!

I have been a ham since the early 90's, been to hundreds of hamfest and have never had as much fun or enjoyment as I had at tech fest yesterday. It was my first. I wanted to say thank you to all the GARS volunteers and other groups and speakers. I saw the true spirit of ham radio there. Great job. I will be back next year. Bravo! - DE Joel KC4WZB

Special thanks to the 14 Volunteer Examiners (VE's), including 2 in training, who participated at TechFest.



KD4TGR (McConnell Middle School's Radio Club) students (above) had a great time, presenting solar power at TechFest on Saturday. Thanks again to Ralph Pickwick III for supplying the setup and training the kids to explain it!

They learned from others and grew in their confidence in radio and electronics.

What a great event!



Chili Cook-off winners: 1st place Rick Cobb; 2nd place Neal Gilchrist

Door Prize (Kenwood TH-D74) Winner : Eddie Foust, WD4JEM (not pictured)



GARS Happenings (Cont'd)

Winter Field Day

34 GARS members and 19 ARES members signed in

456 contacts made: 76 CW, 61 Digital, 319 Phone

4744 total points, 4500 bonus points claimed
1500 for Satellite contact, 1500 for no commercial
power, 1500 for being away from home
13988 total Points claimed vs. 7960 in 2016

Thanks to Mitch N0DIM for organizing another
great GARS event! A good time was had by all.



National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) Experiences

12 GARS members (including the club call W4GR) performed a total of 95 NPOTA activations at 36 sites throughout the eastern United States (see Figure 1). Locations range from N4EWT's activation of Dry Tortugas National Park (NP17) at the end of the Florida Keys, up to KM4RKT and KM4WGA's activation of Cape Cod National Seashore (SS03), to KM4LAO and KM4TVU's activation of River Raisin National Battlefield Park (BP04) in Michigan (see Figure 2).

GARS members contributed to over 20,000 total activations and 1,000,000 QSO's uploaded to the Logbook of the World (LoTW). Some GARS members have shared their experiences as activators and chasers in this event.

From David, KJ4CMY: I activated one site (RC04) with GARS. I only had 10 QSO's, but I had a lot of fun. This was more casual than a contest, and I got to talk to a lot of nice hams, and they appreciated me (us) for activating the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area.

From Ruth, KM4LAO: I have only been a ham radio operator for a year and a half, but its safe to say that National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) has been one of the most influential events in my life. Visiting National Parks has been one of my hobbies for several years now, so being able to visit them over the radio has deepened my appreciation for these rich national treasures. National Parks on the Air was special to me because of the skills I was able to learn both as a chaser and as an activator, and because of the friends I was able to make on the air and in person throughout the event.

I only had a Technician class license when I first heard about NPOTA, in the fall of 2015. I was studying for my general class license and did not have an HF rig, so I wondered if I would be able to participate in the event. But shortly thereafter, I acquired an HF rig and then passed my General exam the first week of January 2016. I spent the first couple weeks of January getting used to my radio and just getting on the air and on February 1st, I finally made the plunge and contacted my first NPOTA unit as a chaser. Chasing parks was the first aspect of the event that I fell in love with. As a new HF operator, I loved to get on the air, work park units in fascinating places, and learn good HF operating procedures from the activators. It was also a very good learning experience about propagation and I soon learned what bands and modes I had a chance of working specific operators on at specific times of the day. Shortly after I began chasing parks, I discovered the NPOTA Facebook Page, and although I do not have Facebook, I

(Continued on page 8)

Call	Name	# activations
KK4KHS	Mike Smith	6
KK4TKJ	Chuck McCord	17
KM4FMW	Donna McCord	5
KM4LAO	Ruth Willet	20
KM4RKT	Greg Mann	4
KM4TVU	Sharon Willet	14
N0DIM	Mitch Matteau	1
N4EWT	Newt White	1
W4DTR	Dave Bruse	10
W4GR	GARS	4
WB2RIS	Bill Eggers	12
WB4WTN	Bill Cherapy	1

Figure 1—Activations by Members



Figure 2—Locations of Activations

NPOTA Experiences (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 7)

could see the page since it was public. I began to feel like I knew many of these activators as I worked them when they activated and followed their adventures on and off the air through Facebook.

I did as much chasing of National Park units as I could throughout spring of 2016. I was a senior in high school, but managed to work 100 park units by the end of March on SSB and CW using 100 watts and a G5RV antenna. I worked a number of units that I have visited in person, including Yosemite, Yellowstone, Zion National Park, Mount Rushmore, Shenandoah National Park, the Blue Ridge Parkway, Cape Hatteras National Seashore, and Cape Canaveral National Seashore, but I have worked so many more park units that I have never seen and now know about because of National Parks on the Air. Chasing parks wasn't an event I only did under my own call, however. When I was on Saba for the 2016 Dave Kalter Memorial Youth DX Adventure, I took great pride in chasing parks when I had some free time and giving activators a QSO and an unexpected DXCC entity. By the time I left for college in the fall, I had worked over 200 park units under my callsign. Throughout my fall semester, I kept an eye on NPOTA and enjoyed hearing about my mom working parks herself. When I came home for Christmas break, we teamed up to chase parks together. I was amazed the number of activators that were on the air the final weeks of the event and I was able to work over 50 new park units to finish the year with 267 park units worked.

However, the most adventuresome part of National Parks on the Air was actually getting to activate parks! At the beginning of the year, I didn't know how many units I would be able to activate since I don't have my own mobile equipment. I began to ask people if they were going to activate and if I come along. My very first NPOTA activation was with Chuck KK4TKJ and Donna KM4FMW on Kennesaw Mountain, and I loved every minute of it. The three of us ended up doing a number of activations together throughout the year using their mobile equipment. I soon found out, though, that the generosity of ham radio operators extends beyond this local club. My second activation occurred during the Dayton Hamvention when John KD8MQ set up stations at the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historic Site in order for attendees to be able to activate the park. My mom Sharon, KM4TVU, and I met and activated with several different operators for subsequent activations, including Stuart KB1HQS at Colonial National Historic Site in Virginia, Bill AB4BJ and Will AA4WJ at Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park in Georgia, and Emily KB3VVE at three parks in Maryland. Emily, my mom, and I had quite the adventuresome day as we drove around Maryland to Piscataway Park and Greenbelt Park, and also hiked downtown DC in order to work each other on HTs at as many monuments as we could.

My mom obtained her General license in July and we were soon ready to activate a park on our own. Dave W4DTR offered to lend us his equipment so my parents and I could activate parks on our way to my college, Kettering University in Michigan. Those days together activating on our drive up were special times together before my life changed and college began. When my first term of college was completed and Christmas break commenced, my mom picked me up from school and we embarked on a drive home to activate even more parks, including Mammoth Cave National Park for our first activation of an official National Park! On our two trips we completed activations at Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historic Site, Fallen Timbers Battlefield and Fort Miamis National Historic Site

(Continued on page 9)

NPOTA Experiences (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 8)

on the way up, and River Raisin National Battlefield, Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site, and Mammoth Cave National Park on the way home. Once we returned home, we proceeded to meet with Dave W4DTR for four activations in the final week of NPOTA. We activated Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park once, a fitting activation since that was my first activation of the year, and the Chattahoochee River and Recreation Area three times. Our final activation at the Chattahoochee River and Recreation Area on the last day of the 2016 allowed me to complete 20 activations.

I absolutely loved every unique activation, from activations with friends, to club activations with GARS, and then activations with my mom on our own. No activation I completed was the same as the one before it. There certainly were adventuresome moments, including blowing out a fuse in the car after our radio battery died and I still needed a few more QSO's for a valid activation, dealing with antennas that wouldn't tune, and fixing a faulty window that broke partially from the Michigan cold. However, it was well worth the effort because of the fun we had and the things we learned. We almost always had people looking for us on the air, since friends would post our location on the NPOTA Facebook page and GARS Yahoo Group, and I loved to work the familiar callsigns of chasers who did their best to work us whenever we was activating. A special side effect of activating parks was the thrill of chasing other park units and completing park to park QSO's. It never failed to cheer another activator when they heard a park was chasing them! Through our experiences chasing and activating our national treasures, the National Parks, the NPOTA community of ham radio operators became like a close knit family.

As you can see, National Parks on the Air was an event that allowed me to learn so many new ham radio skills and provided special adventures through this wonderful hobby. The number of parks I chased and activated would not have happened without the support of this community and I miss hearing park activations on the air every day. National Parks on the Air was a spectacular event and will hold a very special place in my heart.

From Bill, WB2RIS: I was both an Activator and Chaser for this event. By using remote stations via RemoteHams.com as a Chaser, I confirmed 433 Park Units and 53 National Parks in Logbook of the World (LoTW), which earned me a place on the NPOTA Honor Roll.

My activations were most memorable, with a total of 1176 QSO's. While visiting a sister for Thanksgiving, I was able to activate Gulf Islands National Seashore (SS08) and Tuskegee Airman National Historic Site (NS71). In December I took a week off from work and, with a new T-heel antenna and my FT-857, activated a number of sites along the coast. I averaged 2 a day, starting in Georgia from Fort Pulaski (MN33), to the Cumberland Island National Seashore (SS06). I continued into Florida, activating all sites from Fort Caroline and Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve (NM08 / PV16 "two-fer") down to Canaveral National Seashore (SS02). After visiting my other sister in Florida, I activated Ocmulgee National Monument (MN56), near Macon. The Park rangers were most helpful; at Fort Frederica (MN29) they let me set up near their maintenance area, so I could operate after the park closed. One regret: in the rush to operate, I wish I spent more time to learn more about what each site has to offer, although I have a collection of souvenir refrigerator magnets from each site. Although the NPOTA event is finished, I am looking forward to visiting other National Park Service units and learning more about American history.

Beginner's Corner

From a New Ham's Perspective

Congratulations to Phyl! She passed her test at Tech Fest, and is now KN4AEZ. I know her very well. She is my XYL (wife). I was her Elmer. Coaching her through the testing process was an eye opener. It brought back memories of my early days as a new ham.

When your call sign appears in the FCC database, you are authorized to get on the air. The FCC no longer mails you a printed copy of your license. Neither do they email it. How do they do it now? I asked a good friend the following questions:

“Where do you look for your name in the FCC database?”

Go to <http://wireless2.fcc.gov/UlsApp/UlsSearch/searchLicense.jsp>

Click on "visit" at the end of the first line displayed, and then do a name search.

“How long does it take to get an actual license?” It varies and can be as short as a week up to about three weeks depending on how busy the FCC is.

“How do we log into the FCC database and where do we look for our license?”

1. Go to the URL listed in the first question and do a name search - or -
2. Go to QRZ and do a name search.

Now that you have that call sign or license, what happens next? Hopefully, you already have a radio. If you don't have one, you might want to head to the internet or to the ham radio store for one. If you already have a radio, hopefully you have it programmed, at least for a couple nearby repeaters and a few simplex frequencies. Get an Elmer (mentor) to help you, if needed.

When you have your call sign and a radio that is programmed, (Don't forget the antenna!) the time you have been waiting for has come! You press that push-to-talk button and throw out your call sign, “KN4XXX monitoring.” If no one comes back, wait a while and try again. When someone does come back, the adrenalin starts pumping and you key the push-to-talk button once more. This would be a good time to tell the other party that you are a new ham and this is your first QSO (conversation). He or she will understand. Remember that the other party you are talking to has also had a “first time” on the air, as well.

What do I talk about? Let the other party ask a question. If he or she doesn't tell them about your equipment and how it feels to be a licensed amateur radio operator. Talk about your equipment. Ask the other party about his or her first time on the air and what equipment he or she has. Remember to give your call sign at the ten minute mark and at the end of your QSO. Don't be afraid to make mistakes! Everyone has made some kind of mistake on the air at one time. We've all been there. No one will judge you. You can carry on the QSO for as long as both of you want to.

Whew! That first one was over! What next? Don't hesitate to get on the air again. Before you try again, you may want to pause a moment and contemplate what has happened, but don't stop there. Make it a habit to get on the air again and again! The more you get on the air the more comfortable you will be. Before you know it, you will be hearing some else on the air with their first QSO. Now, as a veteran, you can help them. That is what amateur radio is all about.

73 de *David Harden*, KJ4CMY



Net Managers Corner

Monday Night 2 Meter “Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net”

GARS NEEDS MEMBERS TO SERVE AS NET CONTROL STATIONS!

GARS is a great Amateur Radio service club and we have the membership and awards to prove it. Our club is a very busy and active club and we use the Monday night net to get the information out to our members. Weekly participation is needed to make our net function well. There is only a small group of very dedicated people that make the net happen each week, and we need more members to volunteer to serve as Net Control Stations (NCS) on a rotating basis.

Out of almost 300 members, there are only fifteen primary people who serve as NCS for the GARS net every Monday night. In no particular order, they are:

Norm - WA4ZXV	Kyle - W4KDA	Mitch - N0DIM
Ruth - KM4LAO	Hal - W4IGE	Don - KW4AL
Ray - N4GYN	Sandy - KJ4DRO	John - WB4QDX
Bill - KK4AUA	David - KK4KAF	Kevin - KK4WOG
Chuck - KK4TKJ	Mike - KK4KHS	Donna - KM4FMW

As GARS Net Manager (Chuck KK4TKJ), I really need 26 people to fill NCS positions. I do plan and post the schedule months in advance. Any conditions will be accommodated that you as a rotating NCS need to place on the scheduling of your duties. If your plans change, I can make adjustments for the schedule to work, and I will make those changes happen as soon as I am notified of a problem. As Net Manager, I also send out reminders each week to let the NCS scheduled know he or she is NCS for the next Monday night net. In short, serving as a rotating NCS is a small duty but a great contribution to the club. The “Want, Swap, Sell Information Net” begins promptly at 19:30 every Monday night and runs about 45 minutes. As a scheduled NCS, you will request the assistance of a volunteer alternate NCS each time you have Net Control. Your simple duties will be to tune in to the GARS repeater, read the script, take a few notes and forward the information to me for record keeping.

Please lend a hand and contact me at KK4TKJ@arrl.net. Sign up to help support the effort that makes GARS the great club that it is.

73 and see you on the Nets!

Chuck McCord, KK4TKJ

GARS Net Manager



Don't miss the “KNOW IT ALL” Net Wednesday nights, 8:30-9:30 pm



We have moved to a new format. We begin with current events and announcements. Then we Introduce New Technology. Then we have check-ins and general discussion. Post net is Rag Chew format.

Jeff—AB4HF

Everyone is having great fun on this net! Come join us and become a “KNOW IT ALL”.

TIME: 8:30 every Wednesday evening on the GARS repeater - 2m 147.075 + PL 82.5

GARS Membership Page

New GARS Members in January

Jere Sandidge (K4FUM)

New Members: 1

**Total Members as of February 1, 2017
275**

**Join us for our weekly
breakfast gathering at
7:30 AM most Saturdays
at**

**Golden Corral
2155 Riverside Parkway
Lawrenceville, GA 30043**

([Directions](#))

**The following members are
celebrating birthdays
in February:**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!
From All of Us at GARS

**Diane Andrus (KB4LWS)
Marvin Atherton (KG4FHB)
Lauren Atkin
Don Bagby (KK4NJM)
David Bell (KM4PTY)
Antoinette Bigham (KK4WOB)
Luis Castellanos (KA3C)
Michael Curtis (KK4WWB)
Eugene Di Nardi (N3XKE)
Manuel Dominguez (N5JMD)
Eddie Foust (WD4JEM)
Sandy Jackson (KJ4DRO)
Suzy Jones (KK4MWC)
William Kelly (W4WNL)
Philip McCleary (N4LNE)
Carlton McPherson (WA4ZUW)
Robby Nelson (KK0BSA)
Yoshiaki Ogane (ND1Y)
George Sensibar (W9RR)
Donald Silva (NX1Q)
Hadassah Silva (KK4TGR)
Arthur Stone (KT4LS)
Michael Swiderski (K4HBI)
Richard Tooke (KB4DL)
Sharon Willet (KM4TVU)**

GARS MEMBERSHIP

Your current GARS membership status is shown in the monthly newsletter e-mail towards the bottom of the message.

To become a GARS member, or to renew your GARS membership, please visit our website—<http://www.gars.org>

To make changes to your GARS membership (moved, new e-mail address, new phone number, etc.), please e-mail the Membership Committee - membership@gars.org

You can **renew or update** your Amateur Radio license information with the FCC at their website for free <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm?job=home>

To update your ARRL information, please visit their website - <http://www.arrl.org>

Membership Chair: Karen Albritton, KI4HPP
Committee Members: Dave Bruse, W4DTR, Pam Meridy, WB1AKQ

ARRL CONTESTING INFO

From ARRL Contest Calendar

> **NOTE:** For more information click the links <

February 2017

13-17 [School Club Roundup](#)

18-19 [International DX - CW](#)

March 2017

4-5 [International DX - Phone](#)

April 2017

16 [Rookie Roundup - SSB](#)

June 2017

10-12 [June VHF QSO Party](#)

18 [Kid's Day](#)

24-25 [Field Day](#)

July 2017

8-9 [IARU HF World Championship](#)

August 2017

5-6 [222 MHz and Up Distance Contest](#)

19-20 [10 GHz and Up - Round 1](#)

20 [Rookie Roundup - RTTY](#)

September 2017

9-10 [EME - 2.3 GHz and Up](#)

9-11 [September VHF QSO Party](#)

16-17 [10 GHz and Up - Round 2](#)

October 2017

7-8 [EME - 50 to 1296 MHz](#)

16-20 [School Club Roundup](#)

November 2017

4-5 [EME - 50 to 1296 MHz](#)

4-6 [Nov. Sweepstakes - CW](#)

18-20 [Nov. Sweepstakes - Phone](#)

December 2017

1-3 [160 Meter](#)

9-10 [10 Meter](#)

17 [Rookie Roundup-CW](#)

For more information:

<http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

HAMFEST CALENDAR

05/19/2017 | [2017 Dayton Hamvention](#)

Location: Xenia, OH

Type: non-ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Dayton Amateur Radio Association

Website: <http://www.hamvention.org>

Southeast US

02/10/2017 | [Southeastern Division Convention \(Orlando HamCation®\)](#)

Location: Orlando, FL

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Orlando Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.hamcation.com>

02/25/2017 | [Dalton Hamfest](#)

Location: Dalton, GA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Dalton Amateur Radio Club

Website: w4drc.webstarts.com/hamfestintro.html

03/03/2017 | [Alabama Section Convention](#)

Location: Birmingham, AL

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Birmingham Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.w4cue.com>

03/18/2017 | [The Great Southern Hamfest](#)

Location: Thomasville, GA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Thomasville Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.thomasvilleamateurradioclub.com>

For more information:

<http://www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar>

HAM RADIO OPERATOR^{DR}



BSA Venture Crew 73 Wants You!

Venture Crew 73 is for you.

If you are between 14 and 21 years old, enjoy outdoor activities, and have an interest in radio technology

- Venture Crews are part of the Boy Scouts of America.
- *Venture crew 73 is chartered by the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society.*
- Venture crew 73 is coed.
- *Meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month, 7:00 pm, at EAA 690 Hangar at:
Briscoe Field - Sports Aviation Complex
Hangar 1, 690 Airport Road
Lawrenceville, GA 30045*
- Crew 73 is a youth-run organization, which means that our Crew President and other youth plan the Crew's outings and activities each month.

We enjoy:

- ◊ *Camping*
- ◊ *Hiking*
- ◊ *Horseback Riding*
- ◊ *Shooting Sports*

- Crew activities usually mix high adventure and the use of Amateur Radio.
- For more information, attend our next meeting or contact:

Steve Back, WB2OGY

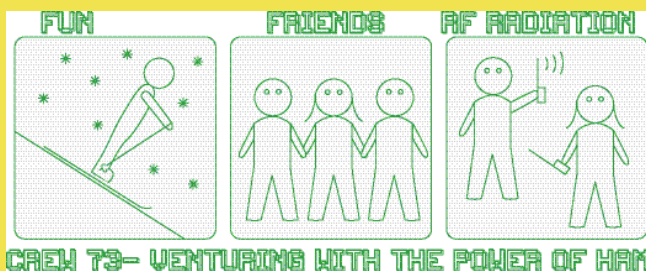
Venture Crew 73 Committee Chairman
Phone: 770-712-9069

E-mail: committeechair@venturecrew73.org



















Kevin McClure, KF4HFN

Venture Crew 73 Advisor
Phone: 706 318 2519




Email: advisor@venturecrew73.org



G A R S Officers and Committee Chairs

Rick Cobb, President	N4XYX	
Mike Weathers, Vice President	ND4V	
Nick Doemland, Secretary	AB4CQ	
Sid Weaver, Treasurer	N4NQ	
Nick Nikley, Program Manager	N0NCQ	
Karen Albritton Membership Chair	KI4HPP	
Dave Bruse, VE Team Leader	W4DTR	
David Adcock, Webmaster, Field Day Chair	KA4KKF	
Dorothy Jubon, Public Information Officer	N2DLJ	
Ralph Pickwick TechFest Chair, Apparel Mgr, Education Chair	KJ4CNC	
Bill Eggers, GARzette Editor	WB2RIS	
Bill Cherepy, W4GR Trustee	WB4WTN	
Eddie Foust, Repeater Chair	WD4JEM	
Mike Weathers, WAS-Checker, Historian	ND4V	
Chuck McCord, Net Manager	KK4TKJ	
Mike Swiderski, Technical Advisor	K4HBI	
Mitch Matteau Winter Field Day	N0DIM	
Pam Meridy QSO Party and VHF Contest Chair	WB1AKQ	
(Vacant) Multimedia Chair		

DIRECTORS

Kyle Albritton	W4KDA	
David Adcock	KA4KKF	
Norm Schklar	WA4ZXV	

March Meeting**Raspberry Pi in Your Ham Shack**

By Jim Reed, N4BFR

Repeater Status

147.075 operational in Snellville
 147.255 operation in Snellville
 444.525 operational in Snellville
 Link remote receivers being added
 442.100 operational at Goshen Springs
 145.590 operational at Bogan Road
 6M currently down



L&M Mobility
 Robert (Mike) Smith
 5191 La Paloma Dr.
 Lilburn, GA 30047
 Phone (404)-509-3104
 Smithrm70@hotmail.com

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GARS Recurring Calendar

- ◆ Monthly club meeting is the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 pm
- ◆ Every Monday at 7:30 pm: GARS Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net +
8:30 pm: ARES Training on the GARS 147.075 MHz repeater
- ◆ Every Wednesday at 8:30 pm: GARS Know It All Net on the GARS 147.075 MHz repeater
- ◆ Every Saturday at 7:30 am: GARS Weekly Breakfast, Golden Corral Restaurant, Riverside Drive, Lawrenceville
- ◆ Second Sunday at 2:00 pm: GARS Ham Exam Session, Fire Station #24
2735 Mall of Georgia Blvd
Buford, GA 30519

Rick, N4XYX called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

General Business

Sid, N4NQ, gave the treasure's report. Voting took place and the treasure's report was approved

Karen, KI4HPP, gave the membership report: GARS has 282 members.

NOTE: Rick reminded us that our designation as a "Special Service Club" requires that 50% of membership also be an ARRL member (GARS receives a portion of the sign-up and renewal fee. see Sid, N4NQ for details)

Future Programs

- **February 14th**—Greg Abernathy, A14UD "Electric Magnetic Pulse" (EMP)
- **March 14th** - Jim Reed, N4BFR "Raspberry Pi in your ham shack"
- **April 11th** - Randall Farmer, N4FET "Battle Bots - Team Bombshell"

Event Recaps & General Updates**Holiday Party**

- Musical entertainment by Walter
- Food provided by 5Spot Café
- Great time had by all
- Ham of the Year "Ralph Pickwick" was announced

January Officer Nominations

- President – Mike Weathers, ND4V (outgoing Rick Cobb)
- Vice President – Rick Cobb, N4XYX (outgoing Mike Weathers)
- Treasurer – Sid Weaver, N4NQ (no change)
- Secretary – Leland Ford (outgoing Nick Doemland)
- Program Manager – OPEN (outgoing Nick Nickley)

Stone Mountain Hamfest

Thanks to all those who made this event a great success, special thanks to

- Norm (WA4ZXV), Gate
- Kyle(W4KDA), Parking
- Dave (W4DTR), VE sessions
- Ralph (KJ4CNC), Treasurer
- Kevin (KK4WOG) & Leland (K9SDR), Boneyard
- Nick (N0NCQ), Forums
- Allison (AB4YL), front table
- Paul, Silent Key Sales

NOTE: Mike (KK4KHS) presented GARS with a donation of \$2800.00 for our support of the Stone Mountain Hamfest

(Continued on page 16)

EXTRA! EXTRA!

GARS Calendar of Events for 2017

- GARS Breakfast - Every Saturday morning
- GARS Ham Exam Session - 2nd Sunday every month
- TechFest January 14
- Winter Field Day January 28 & 29
- Georgia QSO Party April 8 & 9
- North metro area Fox Hunt April
- May Madness TBA
- Satellites in the Park TBA
- Memorial Day Parade May 29
- ARC/KARC Hamfest 1st Saturday of June
- Field Day June 24 & 25
- W4GR Spcl Event - 40th Anniv. Summer-TBA
- Maker Faire TBA
- Sept VHF/UHF Contest September 9
- Stone Mt. Hamfest TBA
- JOTA - 3rd Weekend of ... October
- HamCram TBA
- Christmas Party TBA

(Continued from page 15)

Element 2 Technician HamCram

Date: March 25th Location: 800 Hi Hope Road

Time: 8:00am – 5:00pm

Net Schedule

- GARS Want, Swap, Sell and Information, Monday's @ 7:30pm
- ARES Training , Monday's @ 8:30pmm
- Know-it-All, hosted by Jeff, AB4HF, Wednesday's @ 8:30pm

Program

- Rick, N4XYY and Nick, N0NCQ presented Zygmunt Skrobanski, AF4MP, with a certificate of appreciation for his presentation "Voice of America Prediction Software"

Upcoming Events (for additional details go to www.GARS.org)

- TechFest – 1/14
- Winter Field Day – 1/28-29
- Cherokee Rose Dog Show – February 2nd through 5th

Meeting concluded around 9:00pm

Nick, AB4CQ, Secretary

GARS CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
January 29	January 30	January 31	1 8:30 - 9:30 pm GARS Know-It-All Net	2	3	4 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral Riverside Drive
5	6 7:30 - 8:00 pm GARS 2m Net	7	8 8:30 - 9:30 pm GARS Know-It-All Net	9	10	11 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral Riverside Drive
12 GARS VE Team Testing Session Starts at 2:00 pm Gwinnett Co. Fire Station #24	13 7:30 - 8:00 pm GARS 2m Net	14 5:00 - 6:30 pm Dinner at Flying Machine 7:00 - 9:00 pm GARS Meeting	15 8:30 - 9:30 pm GARS Know-It-All Net	16	17	18 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral Riverside Drive
19	20 7:30 - 8:00 pm GARS 2m Net	21	22 8:30 - 9:30 pm GARS Know-It-All Net	23	24	25 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral Riverside Drive
26	27 7:30 - 8:00 pm GARS 2m Net	28	March 1 8:30 - 9:30 pm GARS Know-It-All Net	March 2	March 3	March 4 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral Riverside Drive

Metro Testing Sessions

GARS publishes Metro Atlanta VE exam schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions. Find additional sessions online at <http://www.arrl-ga.org>.

First Sunday, ODD Months

2 pm (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, & Nov)
VEC: WCARS
Braselton Public Utility Building
4986 Highway 53, Braselton, GA
Roger Gibson, WB4T
(770) 271-4210 or (770) 712-9560
w4rlg@bellsouth.net

First Sunday, EVEN Months

2 pm (Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec)
VEC: WCARS
Hall County EOC
470 Crescent Dr. Gainesville, Ga.
Perry Roper, KO4RD
(770) 536-3056

Second Saturday

10:00 AM
Alpharetta North Park, Adult Activities Center
13450 Cogburn Rd, Alpharetta, GA 30004
Ian Kahn, KM4IK
E-mail: km4ik.ian@gmail.com

Second Saturday, ODD Months

VEC: ARRL
8:30 a.m.
GMC Community Ctr
5325 Leon St.
Stone Mountain, GA
Frank Haynes, KV4SP
(678) 467-3712

Second Sunday

VEC: W5YI
2 pm
Fire Station #24
Mall of Georgia Boulevard
Buford, GA 30519
Contact: Dave Bruse, W4DTR
E-mail: exams@gars.org

Third Saturday

VEC: W5YI
2 pm @ Barrow Co. Emerg. Serv. Bldg
66 McElroy Street
Winder, GA 30680
Steve Donellan, N5SMD
(404) 520-0368
E-mail: n5smd@comcast.net

(cont. next column)

Ham Exam Results

January Results

The GARS VE team had a lonely test session on Sunday, January 8. No candidates for license testing showed up

But, the session was open as advertised and many thanks to the following VE's who braved the cold to hold the session, just in case:

- Frank Haynes, KV4SP
- Bill Cherepy, WB4WTN
- Nick Doemland, AB4CQ
- Dave Bruse, W4DTR (CVE)
- Chuck McCord, KK4TKJ (Co-CVE)
- Donna McCord, KM4FMW
- Andre Steyn, W7ALS
- Ruth Willet, KM4LAO (in training)

73,

Don Bagby, KK4NJM (Co-CVE)

GARS VE Team Leader
E-mail: exams@gars.org

GARS VE Website:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GARS_VE_Team/

Fourth Tuesday

ARRL VEC
7 pm @ United Way Service Center
6279 Fairburn Rd., Douglasville
Jessie Clower, KB4WFK
(770) 942-6466

Fourth Sunday

2:30 pm Georgia Tech
VanLeer Elec. Building
Rm. W218, 777 Atlantic Dr.
For more information go to www.w4aql.com and click on "Test Sessions"

Metro Club Meetings

First Tuesday

Kennehoochee ARC
Downtown Marietta
Fire Station #1, Training Room
112 Haynes Street
Marietta, Georgia 30060
Meeting begins at 7:00pm
Talk In 146.880(-)

First Thursday

Atlanta Radio Club
Georgia Red Cross HQ
1955 Monroe Dr., Atlanta
Meeting is at 7:30pm
Talk In -146.820(-)

N.E. Georgia ARC
Commerce Public Library
1344 South Broad Street, Commerce
Meeting is at 6:30pm
Talk In - 147.225(+), PL 123.0

Second Monday

Georgia Tech ARC
Room W218
Van Leer Electrical Engineering Bldg.
Georgia Tech Campus
Meeting at 7:00pm

Second Thursday

Alford Memorial Radio Club
Annistown Road Baptist Church
Annistown Rd & Spain Rd
Stone Mountain
Dinner at 6:00pm, Meeting at 7:30pm
Talk In - 146.760(-)

Second Saturday

North GA QRP Club
Board Room of The Shepherd Center
2020 Peachtree Rd, NW, Atlanta
at 10:00 AM

Third Tuesday

North Fulton Amateur Radio League
Alpharetta Recreation & Parks Dept
Alpharetta Adult Activity Center
13450 Cogburn Road
Alpharetta, GA 30004
meeting at 7:30pm
Talk In - 145.47(-)

For more information, go to: <http://www.gars.org/>

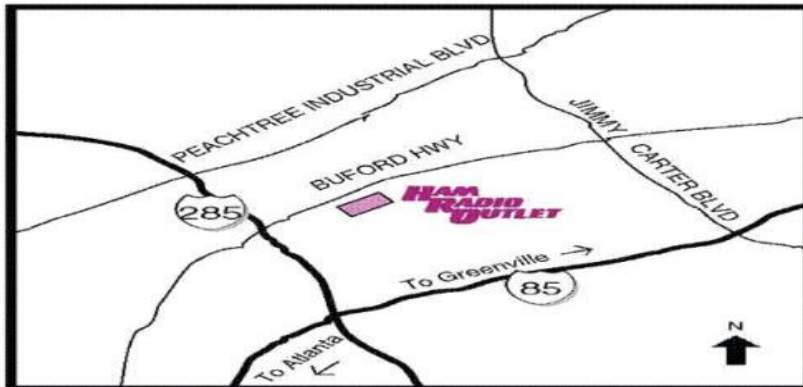
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